



MORVEN GLENAVY IKAWAI IRRIGATION COMPANY LIMITED

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SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Dear Shareholders/Irrigators

This has been the most intensive watering period since MGI was formed 25 years ago. It is a timely reminder that the reason irrigation was developed for this area was it is traditionally a low rainfall and drought prone area. MGI operates on an annual water allocation with a three year rolling average. This irrigation season we will reach our yearly allocation of water for the scheme. In the past, droughts usually lasted for more than one irrigation season so prudent use of irrigation water is of paramount importance to ensure the scheme can operate within allocation constraints for the upcoming irrigation seasons.

A checklist for irrigators is as follows:

- You must notify the Race Manager if you are taking water – this applies to both Spray and Borderdyke operators and ensure that you give plenty of notification when going off irrigation so there is sufficient time to alter intake flows – this helps to ensure water will not be taken from the river unnecessarily. Water taken from the river is recorded against our annual flow.
- Borderdyke irrigators need to operate to their allocated roster times. Talk to your neighbours about change-over times so no water is wasted.
Note: Quite a few borderdyke properties will be facing extra water charges for this season – please budget accordingly.
- Make sure gates and borders are operating properly e.g.
 - Fix holes in borders, ensure dams seal properly
 - Clean Headraces, Traditional sill clean and you may also need to dig out excess soil, ensure grass sills are mown
 - Drain Headrace to water the last group by lifting gates

All water saved will mean more water availability for next season. MGI irrigators have an advantage with reliable water sourced from the Waitaki River so please use this carefully as most other irrigation areas are now on various stages of restriction. MGI has invested heavily in telemetry in recent years which has saved water which previously would have been by-washed back to the river or out to sea.

As at 29th January 2015 the total recorded water intake into the scheme is 199.5 million cubic metres which leaves 132 million cubic metres of this year's allocation available. MGI will update water use at the end of February 2015. If we all work together to save water there should be sufficient water if we need to do an extra round of irrigation in May.

P.T.O.

On-farm Changes

If irrigators are intending to change their on-farm irrigation systems, early notification in writing to the company is necessary so any changes that may be required to company infrastructure can be programmed into our maintenance schedule.

Soil Moisture Monitoring

Judith Neilson (Environmental Manager) has obtained a costing for hand held soil moisture probes at a discounted price. For more information please contact Judith on 027 522 3354.

Future Contact

Going forward MGI will be using emails and the website to transfer information to shareholders and irrigators. We are in the process of upgrading and updating the website to be more user friendly and in the future this will be used by MGI to keep shareholders and irrigators informed.

Robin Murphy
Chairman